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LETTER DATED 21 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Recent reports of conflicts between the Bosnia and Herzegovina Army (ABH) and the Croatian Defense Council (HVO) have been greatly exaggerated as an ethnic conflict between Muslims and Croats.

This fighting is not a conflict based along ethnic lines. Rather, it is a conflict which is a consequence of the international community's arms embargo on Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the international community's failure to provide adequate humanitarian assistance to the besieged population in central Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The arms embargo denies both Muslims and Croats adequate defence capabilities in the face of barbarous aggression from Serbia and Montenegro. The arms embargo and the lack of adequate sustenance pits neighbour against neighbour for control of scarce resources.

If the two armies had adequate defence capabilities and if the population in central Bosnia were adequately assisted with humanitarian needs, conflict between local leaders would have never occurred.

Furthermore, I am pleased to report that the conflicts between the two armies have subsided today, as leaders from both sides have taken concrete and intensive measures to reallocate meagre resources. Despite the conflicts over the past two days, the alliance between ABH and HVO will be firmly sustained.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative